

RE: SB 184 AN ACT EXTENDING THROUGH NOVEMBER 8, 2022...

I write in support of SB 184, because Covid-19 is highly unpredictable. My name is Lawrence Rizzolo, Professor Emeritus of the Yale School of Medicine. These comments are my own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Yale University.

Despite remarkable progress, Covid-19 is a tricky beast, and there is a good chance a new, highly contagious variant will emerge with a spike in infections in the Fall. This has been the historical pattern. The highly vulnerable and their caregivers are especially at risk.

There are at least three issues:

- 1) A voter might be highly susceptible to Covid-19 (e.g., elderly or immune-compromised) and voting would force them to be in a crowded indoor environment that they would otherwise avoid.
- 2) It may be difficult for a caregiver to arrange time to wait at a polling location.
- 3) Caregivers would risk getting infected in a crowded polling location and then infecting their vulnerable patient.

Who can say whether, public health officials might reinstate infection-control protocols?

My 98-year-old mother-in-law has lung disease and would be especially vulnerable to a respiratory infection introduced by her caregivers. It is unnecessary to place her at greater risk when absentee balloting was so successful in recent elections.

Please extend fear of Covid-19 as a reason for obtaining an absentee ballot.

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